

Remarks

This reply is responsive to the Office communication mailed June 22, 2006. Unless otherwise indicated, page and paragraph references are to that communication.

The independent claims have each been amended to recite that the said digital content is stored “outside of said digital secure repository” on a storage device accessible to a user. Support for this new recitation is found in Fig. 2, in which the encrypted digital content 242 is clearly shown outside the digital rights 204.

In applicants’ claimed invention, therefore, the digital secure repository (1) is associated with a user independently of a particular user device; (2) is accessible to the user independently of the content provider; and (3) stores only the access rights and not the digital contents themselves, which are stored outside the digital rights wallet. The Examiner has most recently cited Ginter et al. U.S. Patent 6,948,070 (“Ginter”) as allegedly disclosing a digital secure repository accessible to a user independently of a provider. However, In Ginter’s disclosed system, the secure repository contains both the content and the controls (rights), as is clear from Figs. 5A-5B as well as claim 1 of the patent, in which a “first secure container” is recited as containing both a “first digital file” and a “control” governing use of the file. Thus, Ginter does not store his digital content outside of his digital secure repository, on a storage device accessible to the user, as claimed by applicants. Nor do any of the other references cited by the Examiner appear to teach a digital secure repository that is associated with a user independently of a particular user device, is accessible to the user independently of the content provider, and stores only the access rights and not the digital contents themselves. Rather, in each case anything that is arguably a digital secure repository is bound to one of these three entities.

Conclusion

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. It is hoped that upon such consideration, the Examiner will hold all claims allowable and pass the case to issue at an early date. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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